

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguro et al. (USP 6,293,670). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Taniguro discloses, in Fig. 8A, a platen 34 provided between a conveying roller 36 and a paper exhausting roller 41. As shown in Fig. 9, the platen 34 has a planar portion 341 formed upstream of a bent portion 34 and a slant portion 342 formed downstream of the bent portion 34a with respect to a conveying direction of a recording sheet P.

The Examiner appears to allege that the planar portion 341 corresponds to the “remaining region” of the claimed invention and the slant portion 342 corresponds to the “predetermined region” of the claimed invention.

As stated above, the planar portion 341 and the slant portion 342 are formed along a conveying direction of the recording sheet P. Therefore, slant portion 342 is not formed adjacent to the planar portion 341 “in a direction perpendicular to a conveyance direction of the recording medium.” Accordingly, Taniguro fails to disclose or suggest the “guide means” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 3 and 4, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 5-7, 9, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi (JP 1-75050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Takagi is directed to preventing recording paper sheets from bending and jamming, and discloses a paper-feeding apparatus in which an upper guide having notches is provided above the paper-feeding portion. In a case where a corner portion of a recording paper sheet sent out of the paper-feeding portion is curled, the curled portion comes in contact with notches of the upper guide as the sheet travels in a conveyance direction, and is spread out. Then the sheet is inserted between the upper guide and the lower guide.

Takagi, however, does not guide “a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path.” Accordingly, Takagi fails to disclose or suggest the “guide means” as recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 5.

Claims 7 and 9, dependent on claim 6, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 6.

Claim 10 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 5.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguro in view of Takagi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi in view of Taniguro. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8, dependent on claim 6, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

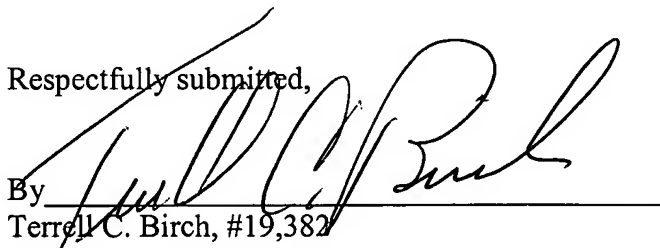
The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


By _____
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